BCU’s 12 first-year experience learning communities:

**LIVING THE GREAT DREAM:**
This community equips students to become active agents in pursuing their dreams, guided by the acronym GREAT DREAM (Giving, Relating, Exercising, Appreciating and Trying out; Direction, Resilience, Emotion, Acceptance and Meaning).

**FROM SOLDIER TO SERVANT:**
This community explores St. Francis’s journey from “spoiled rich kid” to soldier to leader. It challenges students to see if their actions can bring about change in the world.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS:**
This community focuses St. Francis’s most significant relationships and how they shaped his life. It emphasizes the importance of networking — both on and off campus — and key elements for cultivating and maintaining those relationships.

**FRANCISCAN VALUES IN HEALTH CARE:**
This community will examine how to apply Franciscan values to today’s health care settings. It is meant for students who are working to become health care providers in the future.

**BLUE, GOLD, GREEN:**
This community focuses on integration into the “Briar Cliff Experience” (blue and gold), with special emphasis on the Franciscan charism of “Caring for Creation” (green).

**FINDING THE COURAGE TO STAND NAKED IN THE COURTYARD:**
College brings many new experiences; this community examines how these experiences invite students to step outside comfort zones, cast off their own limitations and embrace courage — in all its forms.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE?**
In this learning community, students explore the liberal arts traditions of BCU through verbal and linguistic strategies. It emphasizes the importance of communicating effectively.

**DOOR NO. 3:**
This community explores how St. Francis embraced unconventional methods to solving problems. The goal is for students to grapple with decision-making and ultimately take ownership of their choices.

**THE WAYS OF SCIENCE:**
Intended for biology, chemistry, biochemistry or environmental science majors, this community examines global environmental issues related to technology, energy production and pollution.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**
What would St. Francis eat? This community will investigate the global problems of both starvation, and inversely, unhealthy food production, and work proactively toward creating local solutions.

**MALES IN LEADERSHIP:**
This community challenges young men to learn more about their gifts and talents, and ways to use those skills to serve others. The goal is for young men to “find out what they’re really made of.”

**DISCOVERING TRUE NORTH:**
This community helps students discover their own authentic leadership styles, through service projects, writing courses and examining the life of St. Francis.

Think you have something to offer to the learning communities at BCU? We encourage professional mentors and alumni to get involved! Contact Dr. Ryan Allen, chair of general education, at 712-279-5211 or email ryan.allen@briarcliff.edu.